

Remarks

I. Introduction

Claims 1-28 are pending and stand finally rejected. This amendment is accompanied by a Request for Continued Examination. Claims 1-10, 17-20, 22-23, and 25-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,453,736 to Noren ("the Noren patent"). Claims 11-14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over the Noren patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,491,471 to Stobbe ("the Stobbe patent"). Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 over the Noren patent in view of the Stobbe patent and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,204,663 to Lee ("the Lee patent"). Claims 22 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Noren and in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,002,591 to McCutchan et al. ("the McCutchan patent"). The Applicants traverse the rejections for the reasons stated below.

II. The Rejections are Traversed

Independent claims 1 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 over the Noren patent. Independent claim 11 was rejected over the Noren patent in view of the Stobbe patent.

Amended claim 1 recites an "activation device" that is semi-permanently connectable to a control system. Data that describes actions to perform system functions is included in the activation device. Furthermore, claim 1 recites that the *control system* "automatically reads and utilizes the data from the activation device to activate the functions of the control system." The Noren patent does not teach or suggest these features.

Specifically, the Noren patent describes a system where a programming module 36 is temporarily connected to a control unit 26 in order to allow *a technician to manually update* codes found in the control unit. See Noren patent, col. 3, lines 46-63. With Noren, switches must be manually selected by the technician at the module 36 to perform the updating. After being selected, the updated code information is not stored in the programming module 26, but is directly communicated to the control unit 26. *Id.* Once the programming has been completed by the technician, the programming module 26 is removed. *Id.* at lines 46-50.

Previous systems such as Noren were mentioned by the applicants in the Background section where their shortcomings were also described. Specifically, the applicants described previous systems that required "a trained technician who must go to the location of the gate security system and install the upgraded system." Specification, page 2, lines 5-7. The technician had to manually reset switches

to accomplish this task. *Id.* at lines 7-10. As a result, these previous systems were expensive to maintain and upgrade and created security risks. *Id.* at lines 9-14.

Amended claim 1 recites that the control unit reads and utilizes data from the replaceable activation device to activate functions of the control system. Noren, in contrast, uses a programming module 36 which is temporarily connected to load parameters into the control unit. After loading is complete, the programming module 36 is removed and never read by the control unit. Further, amended claim 1 recites a control unit that automatically initiates the reading of data from the activation device in order to activate system functions, while Noren teaches exactly the opposite: an external programming/updating device that is used by a technician to manually initiate the updating of codes found in the control unit. Since elements of claim 1 are not taught or suggested by Noren, claim 1 is allowable over the Noren patent. Claims 2-10 depend directly or indirectly upon claim 1. Since claim 1 is allowable, claims 2-10 are also allowable.

Method claim 11 has been amended in a similar way to claim 1. Specifically, amended claim 11 recites automatically reading codes from the activation device, not manually supply updates to the device as taught by Noren. Thus, it is believed that claim 11 is allowable for the same reasons as described above with respect to claim 1. Claims 12-16 depend directly or indirectly upon claim 11. Since claim 11 is allowable, claims 12-16 are also allowable.

Claim 17 has also been amended in a manner similar to claim 1 and it is believed that claim 17 is allowable for the same reasons as claim 1. Claims 18-28 depend upon claim 17. Since claim 17 is allowable, claims 18-28 are also allowable.

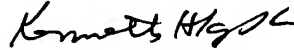
V. Conclusion

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required in this application to Deposit Account No. 06-1135

Application No. 10/027,932
Reply to Office Action dated July 16, 2004

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Date: 1/11/05

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